CLAIMS

1.   A computer sever-based process for matching users of a messaging system requiring a particular service to those users of the same messaging system who have identified themselves as being capable of providing such a service, said users requiring a service being required to create an item in the messaging system including descriptive textual information concerning the service required and one or more proposed times and dates when that service would ideally be required, said service providers being required to create items including descriptive textual information concerning the service provided and a plurality of times when said service is capable of being provided, wherein the process includes the steps of
- deriving a query string from the textual and time and date information entered by the user requiring a service
- -using said query string to query the messaging system database to extract relevant records identifying users offering a service of the type described and available at the relevant time and date
- automatically returning the information retrieved from the database to the user requiring a service with information identifying the said users offering said service.

2.   A process according to claim 1 wherein the messaging system is provided on one or more servers of a MSP.

3.   A process according to claim 2 wherein the creation of items by users both requiring and offering a service is effected over a remote dial-up connection to said MSP.

4.   A process according to claim 1 wherein the items created by users are appointment items which automatically require a

selection to be made by the user of the relevant start and end times and dates of the particular appointment.

5.   A process according to claim 4 or any claim dependent thereon wherein users creating appointment items using the system are required to make a selection of whether a service is being sought or offered before the appointment item is created in the MSP messaging system database.

6.   A process according to claim 1 wherein the query is performed on a subset of the messaging system database, said subset being defined by the criterion of appointments which relate only to the supply of services.

7.   A process according to claim 1 wherein additional criteria are included in the derived query, said additional criteria being one or more of date, time, cost, location, gender, age, and common interests.

8.   A process according to claim 1 wherein the query is derived and conducted on the underlying system database immediately on creation of the appointment item, and information retrieved by said query is displayed on a subsequently dynamically created HTML or like language page.

9.   A process according to claim 1 wherein the appointment item indicating the type of service required and ideal times therefor is created on, and information identifying users offering a service is returned to, a mobile telecommunications device having a calendaring function programmatically or otherwise provided thereon and capable of transmitting and receiving information to and from a computer network on which the messaging service is executing.

10.   A process according to claim 9 wherein the means of transmitting and receiving information used by said mobile telecommunications device is selected from SMS (Short Message Service), WAP (Wireless Application Protocol), or iMODE.

11.   A process according to 10 wherein the mobile telecommunications device is capable of communicating directly with the messaging system.